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UTILITY  
PATENT APPLICATION  
TRANSMITTAL

*(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))*

Attorney Docket No. 4172P2241

<i>First Inventor</i>	CARDENAS, FRANK
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<i>Title</i>	A COMPUTER NETWORK SYSTEM FOR SHOPPING AND METHOD THEREFOR
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Express Mail Label No.

## APPLICATION ELEMENTS

*See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.*

ADDRESS TO:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Box Patent Application  
Washington, DC 20231

1. ☒ Fee Transmittal Form (e.g., PTO/SB/17)  
*(Submit an original and a duplicate for fee processing)*
2. ☒ Applicant claims small entity status.  
See 37 CFR 1.27.
3. ☒ Specification [Total Pages *(preferred arrangement set forth below)*
- Descriptive title of the invention
  - Cross Reference to Related Applications
  - Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R & D
  - Reference to sequence listing, a table,  
or a computer program listing appendix
  - Background of the invention
  - Brief Summary of the Invention
  - Brief Description of the Drawings *(if filed)*
  - Detailed Description
  - Claim(s)
  - Abstract of the Disclosure
4. ☒ Drawing(s) (35 U.S.C. 113) [Total Sheets 

5. Oath or Declaration [Total Pages 

a. ☒ Newly executed (original or copy)

b. ☐ Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63 (d))  
*(for continuation/divisional with Box 17 completed)*

i. ☐ DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)  
Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s)  
named in the prior application, see 37 CFR  
1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b)

6. ☐ Application Data Sheet. See 37 CFR 1.76

7. ☐ CD-ROM or CD-R in duplicate, large table or Computer Program (*Appendix*)
8. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission (*if applicable, all necessary*)
  - a. ☐ Computer Readable Form (CRF)
  - b. Specification Sequence Listing on:
    - i. ☐ CD-ROM or CD-R (2 copies); or
    - ii. ☐ paper
  - c. ☐ Statements verifying identity of above copies

## ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

9. ☐ Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))
10. ☐ 37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement ☒ Power of Attorney  
(when there is an assignee)
11. ☐ English Translation Document (if applicable)
12. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 ☐ Copies of IDS Citations
13. ☐ Preliminary Amendment
14. ☒ Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503)  
(Should be specifically itemized)
15. ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)  
(if foreign priority is claimed)
16. ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

17. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box, and supply the requisite information below and in a preliminary amendment, or in an Application Data Sheet under 37 CFR 1.76.

☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP)

of prior application No \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

*Prior application information.*

*Examiner*

Group / Art Unit

For CONTINUATION OR DIVISIONAL APPS only: The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which an oath or declaration is supplied under Box 5b, is considered a part of the disclosure of the accompanying continuation or divisional application and is hereby incorporated by reference. The incorporation can only be relied upon when a portion has been inadvertently omitted from the submitted application parts.

## 18. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

☒ *Customer Number or Bar Code Label*

or ☐ Correspondence address below

Name

Address

City

State

Zip Code

Country

Telephone

Fax

Name (Print/Type)

Jeffrey D. Moy

Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)

39.307

Signature

Date 11-20-2000

**Burden Hour Statement** This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO:** Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box Patent Application, Washington, DC 20231.

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# FEE TRANSMITTAL for FY 2001

Patent fees are subject to annual revision

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT

(\$)

355

## Complete if Known

Application Number

Filing Date

First Named Inventor

CARDENAS, FRANK A.

Examiner Name

Group Art Unit

Attorney Docket No.

4172P2241

## METHOD OF PAYMENT

1. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayments to

Deposit  
Account  
Number

23-0830

Deposit  
Account  
Name

WEISS & MOY, P.C.

- ☒ Charge Any Additional Fee Required  
Under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17

- ☒ Applicant claims small entity status  
See 37 CFR 1.27

2. ☒ Payment Enclosed:

☒ Check ☐ Credit card ☐ Money  
Order ☐ Other

## FEE CALCULATION

### 1. BASIC FILING FEE

Large Entity Fee Code (\$)	Small Entity Fee Code (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
101 710	201 355	Utility filing fee	355
106 320	206 160	Design filing fee	
107 490	207 245	Plant filing fee	
108 710	208 355	Reissue filing fee	
114 150	214 75	Provisional filing fee	

SUBTOTAL (1) (\$)

355

### 2. EXTRA CLAIM FEES

Total Claims	Extra Claims	Fee from below	Fee Paid
19	-20** = -0-	9	-0-
3	-3** = -0-	40	-0-
Multiple Dependent			

Large Entity Fee Code (\$)	Small Entity Fee Code (\$)	Fee Description
103 18	203 9	Claims in excess of 20
102 80	202 40	Independent claims in excess of 3
104 270	204 135	Multiple dependent claim, if not paid
109 80	209 40	** Reissue independent claims over original patent
110 18	210 9	** Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent

SUBTOTAL (2) (\$)

-0-

\*\*or number previously paid, if greater; For Reissues, see above

## FEE CALCULATION (continued)

### 3. ADDITIONAL FEES

Large Entity Fee Code (\$)	Small Entity Fee Code (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
105 130	205 65	Surcharge - late filing fee or oath	
127 50	227 25	Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet	
139 130	139 130	Non-English specification	
147 2,520	147 2,520	For filing a request for ex parte reexamination	
112 920*	112 920*	Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action	
113 1,840*	113 1,840*	Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action	
115 110	215 55	Extension for reply within first month	
116 390	216 195	Extension for reply within second month	
117 890	217 445	Extension for reply within third month	
118 1,390	218 695	Extension for reply within fourth month	
128 1,890	228 945	Extension for reply within fifth month	
119 310	219 155	Notice of Appeal	
120 310	220 155	Filing a brief in support of an appeal	
121 270	221 135	Request for oral hearing	
138 1,510	138 1,510	Petition to institute a public use proceeding	
140 110	240 55	Petition to revive - unavoidable	
141 1,240	241 620	Petition to revive - unintentional	
142 1,240	242 620	Utility issue fee (or reissue)	
143 440	243 220	Design issue fee	
144 600	244 300	Plant issue fee	
122 130	122 130	Petitions to the Commissioner	
123 50	123 50	Petitions related to provisional applications	
126 240	126 240	Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt	
581 40	581 40	Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)	
146 710	246 355	Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR § 1.129(a))	
149 710	249 355	For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR § 1.129(b))	
179 710	279 355	Request for Continued Examination (RCE)	
169 900	169 900	Request for expedited examination of a design application	

Other fee (specify)

\*Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid

SUBTOTAL (3) (\$)

-0-

## SUBMITTED BY

Name (Print/Type)	Registration No (Attorney/Agent)	Telephone	Date
Jeffrey D. Moy	39,307	(480) 994-8888	11-20-2000
Signature			

WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

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**A COMPUTER NETWORK SYSTEM FOR  
SHOPPING AND METHOD THEREFOR**

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

1. Field of the Invention:

This invention relates to on-line computer shopping and, more specifically, to a system and method that allows all consumers the ability to access a computer to shop on-line in a convenient manner with minimal security risk and maximum privacy.

2. Description of the Prior Art:

The Internet and the World Wide Web (WWW) are fast growing systems that are increasing in size year after year. More and more companies are providing, and more and more consumers are purchasing, information, goods, and services via the WWW, electronic mail (email) and other electronic commerce means. Unfortunately, electronic commerce has several problems that are hindering its growth. A main problem facing electronic commerce is how payments for information, goods, and services may be accomplished in an efficient, reliable, and secure manner. A number of organizations have addressed this issue by establishing different types of payment systems which vary widely in design, performance, and security features. However, all systems currently in place still require the consumer to input their credit card or bank account number. No matter how secure a payment system may be,

most consumers are reluctant to provide such information due to privacy, security and integrity issues.

Another problem facing electronic commerce has to do with the delivery and receiving of goods that have been purchased. Most consumers who purchase goods via the internet have the goods sent to their home. However, the logistics of receiving a package for a working consumer becomes very cumbersome and inconvenient. Internet merchandisers have already experienced a certain "backlash" to find ways to overcome problematic deliveries.

Yet another problem hindering the growth of electronic commerce deals with internet advertising. Billions of dollars are spent each year on internet advertising. Analysts report that internet advertising will reach \$16.5 billion by the year 2005. Marketers are concerned because internet sites are projected to top 700 million by the same year. The challenge will be for advertisers to find the most cost efficient way of reaching individual consumers. One of the problems with advertising over the internet is that it is generally difficult to target particular types of advertising and other web page content to particular clients, based on the particular needs and interest of the client and their operators.

Therefore, a need existed to provide an improved system and method that allows all consumers the ability to access a computer to shop on-line. The improved system and method will allow consumers to shop in a convenient manner with minimal

security risk and maximum privacy. The improved system and method will provide a convenient way for the delivery and receiving of goods that have been purchased by the consumer. The improved system and method will further provide a way to solve internet advertising problems by providing advertisers with a central location to offer consumers access, visibility, and special offers to the consumer.

#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In accordance with one embodiment of the present invention, it is an object of the present invention to provide an improved system and method that allows all consumers the ability to access a computer to shop on-line.

It is another object of the present invention to provide an improved system and method that will allow consumers to shop in a convenient manner with minimal privacy and security risk.

It is still another object of the present invention to provide an improved system and method that will provide a convenient way for the delivery and receiving of goods that have been purchased on-line by the consumer.

It is yet another object of the present invention to provide a way to solve internet advertising problems by providing advertisers with a central location to offer consumers access, visibility, and special offers to the consumer.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE EMBODIMENTS**

In accordance with one embodiment of the present invention a system for secure and private on-line shopping is disclosed. The system has an on-line shopping store having a plurality of computers for accessing on-line retailers. An on-line shopping store server is coupled to the plurality of computers. The on-line shopping store server is used for hosting an on-line shopping store web site. An on-line store shopping card is provided and is used for purchasing items from the on-line retailers. The on-line store shopping card is a pre-paid card having an assigned monetary value. A shopping card server is coupled to the on-line shopping store server. The shopping card server is used for verifying authenticity and monetary value of the on-line store shopping card, for crediting and debiting the monetary value of the on-line store shopping card, and for transferring payments to and from a user of the on-line store shopping card and the on-line retailers.

In accordance with another embodiment of the present invention a method for making secure and private on-line purchases is disclosed. The method comprises the steps of: providing an on-line shopping store having a plurality of computers for accessing on-line retailers; providing an on-line shopping store server coupled to the plurality of computers of the on-line shopping store for hosting an on-line shopping store web site; providing an on-line store shopping card for purchasing items from the on-line

retailers wherein the on-line shopping card is a pre-paid card having an assigned monetary value; and providing a shopping card server coupled to the on-line shopping store server for verifying authenticity and monetary value of the on-line store shopping card, for crediting and debiting the monetary value of the on-line store shopping card, and for transferring payments to and from a user of the on-line store shopping card and the on-line retailers.

In accordance with another embodiment of the present invention, a method for making secure and private on-line purchases is disclosed. The method comprises the steps of: providing an on-line shopping store having a plurality of computers for accessing on-line retailers; providing an on-line shopping store server coupled to the plurality of computers of the on-line shopping store for hosting an on-line shopping store web site; purchasing an on-line store shopping card for purchasing items from the on-line retailers wherein the on-line shopping card is a pre-paid card having an assigned monetary value and identification number; selecting goods and items to purchase; entering the identification number of the on-line store shopping card; verification of the identification number and funds remaining on the on-line store shopping card; and entering a delivery location of the goods and items purchased when the identification number and funds are verified.

The foregoing and other objects, features, and advantages of the invention will be apparent from the following, more particular, description of the preferred embodiments of the invention, as illustrated in the accompanying drawing.

5

#### **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

Figure 1 is a simplified functional block diagram of a computer network system for shopping online representing the present invention.

Figure 2 is a front view of the on-line shopping card used in the present invention.

Figure 3 is a flowchart showing a method for performing on-line purchases.

#### **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT**

Referring to Figure 1, a computer network system for shopping online 10 (hereinafter system 10) is shown. The system 10 will have a One Stop Shopping Online Store 12 (hereinafter OSSO Store 12). The OSSO store 12 will be an establishment which will have a plurality of computers 14. Each of the computers 14 will allow access to on-line web-sites via communication lines 14. The communication lines 14 may be telephone lines or high speed ISDN, DSL, cable lines or the like. The OSSO store 12 will allow consumers the ability to shop on-line in a convenience manner by establishing a central location where individuals may order and



pick-up goods purchased on-line. The OSSO store 12 is especially helpful to those individuals who do not have computers but would like the convenience of purchasing goods on-line. The OSSO store 12 will also allow any goods that are purchased by the consumer to be sent directly to the OSSO store 12. The OSSO store will then hold the packages till the consumer picks the package up at the OSSO store 12. Thus, the OSSO store 12 will eliminate many of the problems electronic commerce has with the delivery and receiving of goods that have been purchased by consumers. The OSSO store 12 will further provide a place where once the consumer picks-up the goods, he/she may try on/out the goods purchased. If the consumer is not satisfied with the goods purchased, the OSSO store 12 will return the goods to the retailer and reimburse or credit the consumer back for the purchase.

The OSSO store 12 will allow access to on-line retailers. The on-line retailers may be arranged in several different manners. In accordance with one embodiment of the present invention, a plurality of on-line retailers may be formed into a single network of sites. For example, the OSSO store 12 may have a designated OSSO server 16. The OSSO server 16 would allow access to an OSSO web page which may have several different formats. For example, the home web page may have a listing and links to each of the on-line retailers who are members of the OSSO network. By clicking on the proper link, the consumer will be sent to the specific retailer. The home web page may further include retailer

advertising, special retailer sales or promotions, etc. The home web page may further include a listing of other retailers not members of the OSSO network and other popular web sites. The above format helps in eliminating one of the problems associated with electronic commerce since the home web page would allow companies to target particular types of advertising and other web page content to particular clients, based on the particular needs and interest of the client and their operators. Further, the web page would allow a place to show special retailer sales and/or promotions.

The home server 16 would also allow access to outside servers 18. The computers 14 of the OSSO store 12 can access the outside servers 18 either directly via communication lines 19 or via the OSSO server 16. By allowing access to the outside servers 18, consumers at the OSSO store 12 may shop at other web sites that are not members/participants of the plurality of on-line retailers that form the OSSO network.

Both the OSSO server 16 and the outside server 18 may be accessed by individuals on home computers 20. As may be seen in Figure 1, the home computer 20 may directly access the OSSO server 16 or can access the OSSO server 16 via the outside server 18. The system 10 may be set up so that the home computer 20 can only access the OSSO server 16 by subscription to the OSSO server 16. This would generally require that the consumer register at an OSSO store 12 and obtain a valid user ID and user password. This

information would then be entered by the user of the home computer  
20when he/she tries to access the home web page of the OSSO server  
16.

Purchases on the system 10 is accomplished by using an  
5 OSSO card 30. The OSSO card 30 is a card with an assigned cash  
value (i.e., ten dollars, twenty dollars, hundred dollars, etc.).  
The OSSO card 30 may be a prepaid card which could be purchased at  
the OSSO store 12, other retail stores, through the mail, with a  
magazine, or in any desired fashion. The OSSO cards 30 may also be  
10 a programmable card. The programmable OSSO card 30 would allow any  
dollar amount to be programmed onto the card. The programmable  
OSSO card 30 allows for the flexibility of debiting or crediting  
the card 30 for purchases and refunds.

Each OSSO card 30 is assigned a unique card number  
15 similar to the unique number found on a credit card. The card  
number may be printed on the OSSO card 30. For security reasons,  
the card number is generally covered by an opaque adhesive tape or  
similar material so that the number cannot be read until the tape  
is removed by the owner of the OSSO card 30. Alternatively, the  
20 card number may be printed on a piece of paper which is placed in  
a security envelope and placed with the OSSO card 30. For  
additional security, when each individual purchases an OSSO card  
30, the individual may assign a personal identification number  
(PIN) to the OSSO card 30.

After a person purchases an OSSO card 30, he/she can open the envelope or remove the adhesive tape to see the card number. The OSSO card may now be used for purchases. Purchases are made in the following manner. Individuals may shop either at their home computer 20 or at a computer 14 at the OSSO store 12. The individual will access on-line retailers. As stated above, the on-line retailers may be arranged to form a single network of sites or the individual may access other web sites that are outside of the single network of sites. If an individual wishes to purchase goods, information, etc from one of the web sites, the individual will be prompted to input the number of the OSSO card 30. For additional security, the web site may require that the PIN assigned to the OSSO card 30 also to be entered.

Once this information is entered and submitted, the OSSO card 30 and the funds available on the OSSO card 30 are verified. Verification may be accomplished in numerous ways. In accordance with one embodiment of the present invention, all OSSO card information is stored on a card server 22. The card server 22 is coupled to the OSSO server 16 and outside server 18. When a purchase is made, the OSSO server 16 or the outside server 18 will access the card server 22. The validity of the OSSO card 30 and the amount of money left on the OSSO card 30 is verified. If the number of the OSSO card 30 (and for additional security the PIN) is valid, and the OSSO card still has a sufficient amount of money left to make the purchase, the card server 22 will authorize the

purchase. If the OSSO card number or the PIN is invalid, or if there is not a sufficient amount of money left on the OSSO card 30, the card server 22 will not authorize the purchase. The individual must then input the information once again to be verified by the card server 22. Once again, if the OSSO card number or the PIN is invalid, or if there is not a sufficient amount of money left on the OSSO card 30, the card server 22 will not authorize the purchase. After a few times of incorrect information being inputted, the home computer 20 or the computer 14 at the OSSO store 12 will be locked out of the web site.

If the information that was inputted is correct and the OSSO card has a sufficient amount of funds, the card server 22 will authorize the transaction. The card server 22 will then adjust the amount of money left on the OSSO card 30. The adjustment may be done in several manners. In accordance with one embodiment of the present invention, the dollar value of each card is stored on the card server 22. Thus any debits or credits to the OSSO card 30 is updated on the card server 22. For programmable OSSO cards 30, they may be updated if the computer 14 or home computer 20 has a card reader built into the machine. Thus, the card server 22 could adjust the balance of the programmable OSSO card 30 directly via the card reader.

Once a purchase is authorized, the purchaser will indicate where the goods that were purchased should be delivered. The system 10 works so that the user of the computer 14 and the user of the home computer 20 can have the goods that were purchased sent to either his/her home or to a designated OSSO store 12. If the good are delivered to the OSSO store 12, the OSSO store 12 will hold the packages till the consumer picks the package up. By having the option of picking up the purchased goods at the OSSO store 12, the system 10 helps to solve one of the problems associated with electronic commerce since the linguistics of receiving a package for a working consumer becomes very cumbersome and inconvenient.

When a person is finished at the computer 14 at the OSSO store 12, he/she may return the OSSO card 30. He/she will then be reimbursed for any amount of money left on the OSSO card 30. Likewise, any person using a home computer may return the OSSO card 30 to the OSSO store 10 for any refund of unused money.

Once the goods arrive at the OSSO store 12, the OSSO store 12 will call the individual who purchased the goods. When the individual picks up the purchased good, he/she may try on/out the goods purchased. If the consumer is not satisfied with the goods purchased, the OSSO store 12 will return the goods to the retailer and reimburse or credit the consumer back for the purchase.

While the invention has been particularly shown and described with reference to preferred embodiments thereof, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that the foregoing and other changes in form and details may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for secure and private on-line shopping comprising, in combination:

an on-line shopping store comprising a plurality of computers for accessing on-line retailers;

an on-line shopping store server coupled to the plurality of computers of the on-line shopping store for hosting an on-line shopping store web site;

an on-line store shopping card for purchasing items from the on-line retailers wherein the on-line shopping card is a pre-paid card having an assigned monetary value; and

a shopping card server coupled to the on-line shopping store server for verifying authenticity and monetary value of the on-line store shopping card, for crediting and debiting the monetary value of the on-line store shopping card, and for transferring payments to and from a user of the on-line store shopping card and the on-line retailers.

2. A system for secure and private on-line shopping in accordance with Claim 1 further comprising at least one home computer coupled to the on-line shopping store server for accessing on-line retailers.



3. A system for secure and private on-line shopping in accordance with Claim 2 further comprising an outside server coupled to the on-line shopping store server and the on-line shopping card server for accessing web sites that not located on the on-line shopping store server.

4. A system for secure and private on-line shopping in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the on-line retailers are formed into a single network of sites and are hosted on the on-line shopping store server.

5. A system for secure and private on-line shopping in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the on-line shopping server host a home web page having hyperlinks to the on-line retailers.

6. A system for secure and private on-line shopping in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the on-line shopping card has an identification number which is used when purchasing goods from the on-line retailers.

7. A system for secure and private on-line shopping in accordance with Claim 6 wherein the identification number is located on the on-line shopping card.

8. A system for secure and private on-line shopping in accordance with Claim 7 wherein the identification number located on the on-line shopping card is covered with a removable opaque adhesive tape.

9. A system for secure and private on-line shopping in accordance with Claim 6 wherein the identification number is located on a piece of paper attached to the on-line shopping card.

10. A system for secure and private on-line shopping in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the on-line shopping card is a programmable on-line shopping card.

11. A method for making secure and private on-line purchases comprising the steps of:

providing an on-line shopping store having a plurality of computers for accessing on-line retailers;

providing an on-line shopping store server coupled to the plurality of computers of the on-line shopping store for hosting an on-line shopping store web site;

providing an on-line store shopping card for purchasing items from the on-line retailers wherein the on-line shopping card is a pre-paid card having an assigned monetary value; and

providing a shopping card server coupled to the on-line shopping store server for verifying authenticity and monetary value of the on-line store shopping card, for crediting and debiting the monetary value of the on-line store shopping card, and for transferring payments to and from a user of the on-line store shopping card and the on-line retailers.

12. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of providing at least one home computer coupled to the on-line shopping store server for accessing on-line retailers.

13. The method of Claim 12 further comprising the step of providing an outside server coupled to the on-line shopping store server and the on-line shopping card server for accessing web sites that not located on the on-line shopping store server.

14. The method of Claim 11 further comprising the step of forming the on-line retailers into a single network of sites that is hosted on the on-line shopping store server.

15. The method of Claim 11 forming a home web page on the on-line shopping store server having hyperlinks to the on-line retailers.

16. The method of Claim 11 providing an identification number with the on-line store shopping card which is used when purchasing goods from the on-line retailers.

17. A method for making secure and private on-line purchases comprising the steps of:

providing an on-line shopping store having a plurality of computers for accessing on-line retailers;

providing an on-line shopping store server coupled to the plurality of computers of the on-line shopping store for hosting an on-line shopping store web site;

purchasing an on-line store shopping card for purchasing items from the on-line retailers wherein the on-line shopping card is a pre-paid card having an assigned monetary value and identification number;

selecting goods and items to purchase;

entering the identification number of the on-line store shopping card;

verification of the identification number and funds remaining on the on-line store shopping card; and

entering a delivery location of the goods and items purchased when the identification number and funds are verified.

18. The method of Claim 17 further comprising the step of assigning a Personal Identification Number (PIN) to the on-line store shopping card.

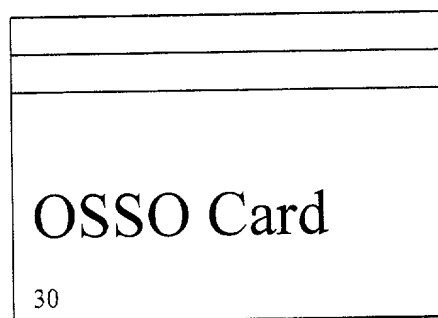
19. The method of Claim 17 further comprising the steps  
of:

selecting the on-line shopping store as the delivery  
location; and

calling a purchaser when the goods and items purchased  
have arrived at the on-line shopping store.

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A system and method for secure and private on-line shopping has an on-line shopping store having a plurality of computers for accessing on-line retailers. An on-line shopping store server is provided and is coupled to the plurality of computers. The on-line shopping store server is used for hosting an on-line shopping store web site. An on-line store shopping card is further provided and is used for purchasing items from the on-line retailers. The on-line store shopping card is a pre-paid card having an assigned monetary value and identification number. A shopping card server is coupled to the on-line shopping store server. The shopping card server is used for verifying authenticity and monetary value of the on-line store shopping card, for crediting and debiting the monetary value of the on-line store shopping card, and for transferring payments to and from a user of the on-line store shopping card and the on-line retailers.





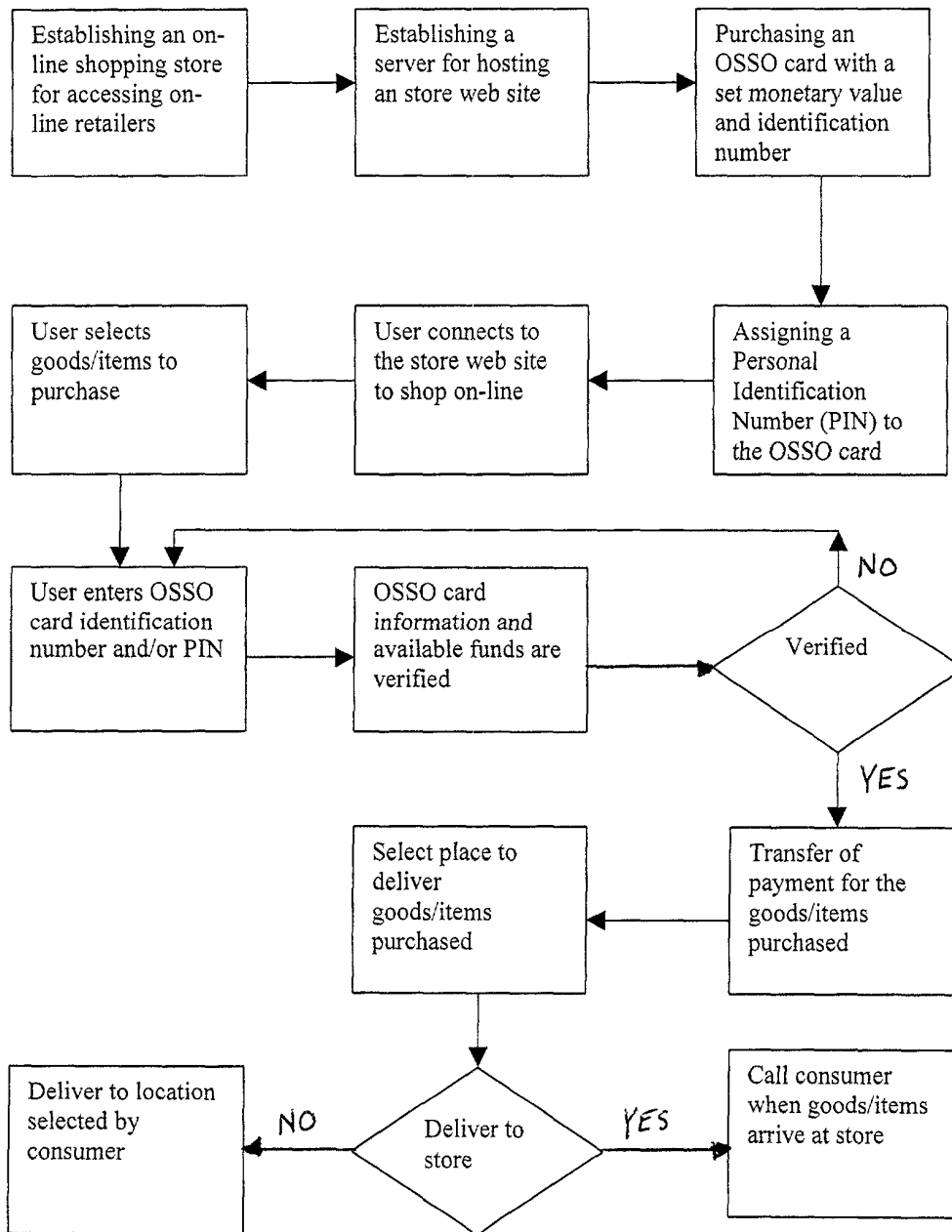


FIG 3

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box → +

PTO/SB/01 (12-97)  
Approved for use through 9/30/00. OMB 0651-0032  
Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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<b>DECLARATION FOR UTILITY OR DESIGN PATENT APPLICATION (37 CFR 1.63)</b>	<b>Attorney Docket Number</b>	4172P2241
	<b>First Named Inventor</b>	CARDENAS, FRANK A.
	<b>COMPLETE IF KNOWN</b>	
	<b>Application Number</b>	/
	<b>Filing Date</b>	
	<b>Group Art Unit</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Declaration Submitted with Initial Filing	<b>OR</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Declaration Submitted after Initial Filing (surcharge (37 CFR 1.16 (e)) required)
	<b>Examiner Name</b>	

**As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:**

My residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

A COMPUTER NETWORK SYSTEM FOR SHOPPING AND METHOD THEREFOR

the specification of which (Title of the Invention)

☒ is attached hereto  
OR  
☐ was filed on (MM/DD/YYYY)  as United States Application Number or PCT International Application Number  and was amended on (MM/DD/YYYY)  (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or of any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application Number(s)	Country	Foreign Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Priority Not Claimed	Certified Copy Attached?	
				YES	NO
			<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

☐ Additional foreign application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto:

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

Application Number(s)	Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

☐ Additional provisional application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto.

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**Burden Hour Statement:** This form is estimated to take 0.4 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO:** Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

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## DECLARATION — Utility or Design Patent Application

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 120 of any United States application(s), or 365(c) of any PCT international application designating the United States of America, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

U.S. Parent Application or PCT Parent Number	Parent Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Parent Patent Number (if applicable)

☐ Additional U.S. or PCT international application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/025 attached hereto.

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following registered practitioner(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith: ☒ Customer Number 23504 OR ☐ Registered practitioner(s) name/registration number listed below

Place Customer Number Bar Code  
PATENT LABEL MARK OFFICE

Name	Registration Number	Name	Registration Number

☐ Additional registered practitioner(s) named on supplemental Registered Practitioner Information sheet PTO/SB/02C attached hereto.

Direct all correspondence to: ☒ Customer Number 23504 OR ☐ Correspondence address below

Name			
Address			
Address			
City	State	ZIP	
Country	Telephone	Fax	

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Name of Sole or First Inventor: ☐ A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor

Given Name (first and middle (if any))		Family Name or Surname	
Frank A.		Cardenas	
Inventor's Signature	<i>Frank A. Cardenas</i>		Date <u>11/10/00</u>
Residence: City	Las Vegas	State NV	Country U.S.A. Citizenship U.S.
Post Office Address	4864 Zanzibar Lane		
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City	Las Vegas	State NV	ZIP 89147 Country U.S.A.

☐ Additional inventors are being named on the \_\_\_\_\_ supplemental Additional Inventor(s) sheet(s) PTO/SB/02A attached hereto